PENNSYLVANIA LESBIAN/GAY SUPPORT NETWORK

VOL. II No. 5

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1979

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17th, 1PM

PRIDE '79 SUMMARY

This year's state conference has come and gone, and planning is underway for PRIDE '80.

PRIDE '79 was attended by over 240 people. They came from almost half of the state's 66 counties, all of the adjacent states - excepting Maryland, and from as far away as Texas and California. There were as many women as men at the conference, and at least some representation was on hand from all of the minorities within our community. The weekend was filled with activities, both scheduled and unscheduled, and the participants were generally pleased with what we had planned.

PRIDE '79 offered 58 hours worth of workshops - 35 actual workshops - of which 60% were for women and men, 22% were for women only and 18% for men only. The 45 workshop leaders - 23 women & 22 men - came from Philadelphia (40%), the Lehigh Valley (22%), Pittsburgh (22%), the Harrisburg area (9%), Upstate (2%), and out-of-state (5%). Amongst those workshop leaders we had PhD's, RN's, MD's, CE's, MSW's, psychologists, attorneys, poets, writers, and about two hundred years of aggregate experience in the Lesbian/Gay movement. The issues which brought out the best attendance were: alcoholism; Age & Youth; Objectives for the 80s; the special workshops for women or men; S & M; and specific lifestyle needs. "There are so many workshops, I don't know which one to go to" and "It was so interesting, I wish we had had more time" were the only 'complaints' we heard all weekend.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of PRIDE '79 was the perfromance by Pat Bond, star of the film "Word is Out." Pat's sometimes hilarious and sometimes poignant reminiscences were interrupted numerous times by applause and cheers. At the end of her act, the audience gave her a well-deserved 3½ minute standing ovation.

Preceeding Pat's performance, we got to hear the music of two fine entertainers from Philadelphia, Joni Geiser and Hank Baron. Their songs, springing from their life's experiences, at one point or another touched each of us. On Friday night we were treated to the off-the-wall music and comedy of 'Pink Debbie', a local cabaret act that can be best described as Theatre of the Strange. The Network, and, we hope, the participants of PRIDE '79, wish these performers continued success and the possibility that someday their talents will be recognized enough that they will no longer have to support themselves as dishwashers or typists.

At the Annual Pride Banquet, the Network presented its first awards for Exemplary Community Service. Receiving the award in the organizational catagory, was the Persad Center. Persad is a counseling group for sexual minorities in Pittsburgh, and has been the driving force behind most of the social, political and service activity in that city. Two awards were given for individual service. The first went to Arleen Olshan and Ed Hermance, who have been active in the Philadelphia commuiity, and are responsible for having developed Giovanni's Room into the largest and best Feminist/Lesbian/Gay bookstore in the world. The second individual award was presented to Mary Nancarrow. Her work in the Harrisburg area and on the Pa. Council for Sexual Minorities has been an inspiration for us all, and her humility should be an example for us all.

A FINAL WORD OF THANKS

We could run this issue into several pages if we printed the names of all those volunteers who helped make PRIDE '79 a success. The planning committee has thanked each of them personally, but the Network would like to express its gratitude to each of the workshop leaders, entertainers, special guests, facilitators, registrars, and especially to all those who took the time, and spent hard earned money, to travel to Pittsburgh to be a part of PRIDE '79.

PRIDE '79 Preliminary Financial Report

INCOME:			
Program sponsors	$ 185.00		
Booth reservations	180.00		
PRIDE '78	453.67		
Fundraising	430.00		
Contributions	303.06		
Registration fees	2,564.00		
Loans	525.55		
TOTAL		$ 4,641.28	
EXPENSES:			
Holiday Inn (Banquet, facilities)	$ 2,261.71		
Entertainment (Fees & expenses)	933.75		
Sound equipment	60.00		
Printing (Flyers, brochures, etc.)	576.08		
Postage	67.67		
Administration	58.45		
Loan repayments	275.55		
TOTAL		$ 4,233.21	
BALANCE ON HAND 10/31/79			$ 408.07
OUTSTANDING BILLS:			
Printing (Program, badges, award)	$ 332.67		
Typesetting & layout	150.00		
Loans due	250.00		
TOTAL		$ 732.67	
TOTAL INDEBTEDNESS 10/31/79			$ -324.60

AT OUR NEXT MEETING

We have a full agenda for the November meeting. First will be a review of PRIDE '79 by each of the coordinators, and then we will accept volunteers to be co-chairs for PRIDE '80. Our projects and programs for the coming year will be discussed next. In order to implement our Spring Primary project, Outreach to rural areas of the state, and the annual State Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration in June, we will need volunteers to chair and to work. We hope that those of you who attended PRIDE '79, and are now interested in state-wide action will come to the meeting on Saturday November 17, at 1PM, at the Friends Meetinghouse, 6th & Herr Sts., Harrisburg. (The Meetinghouse is about three blocks north of the State Capitol building - the one with the big green dome) The strength of our movement depends on the willingness of volunteers to give up some spare time to work for the rights of the one million Lesbians and Gays in Pennsylvania, most of whom can't or won't do it themselves. The final item of business will be the election of officers and the selection of regional coordinators.

THE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Below you will find a coupon for subscribing to our monthly newsletter. So far the Network has been able to survive, financially, on contributions, but as of this newsletter our treasurery is non-existent. And as you can see from the statement above, PRIDE '79 has left us in debt. If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter, we ask that you make a donation of at least $5, which will cover our costs of sending it to you for one year. Larger contributions are welcome, and will be used to support our other projects. (Please see enclosed brochure.)

P.O. Box 4031 ALLENTOWN, PA. 18105

(clip here and mail to: Pa. Lesbian/Gay Support Network - P.O. Box 4031, Allentown, Pa. 18105)

( ) I am enclosing $5.00 for a one year subscription to the Network newsletter

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